

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, March 30. 1706.

Hitherto I have confin'd this Paper to Matters of Trade, and 'tis the second Attempt I have made, to go thorough that weighty and very considerable Article —— I have also resisted various Provocations to quit the Subject, and to Speak to other Cases, equally Material in the present juncture —— But as the Text brings in a good Man, saying in another Case —— *Who can refrain himself from speaking?* so I am Importun'd by my very Title to launch out a little, to make good what I call this Paper, viz. A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE NATION.

Before I enter upon particulars, I think it cannot be amiss therefore, to give a Summary Account of the Publick Affairs, agreeable to the Title of this Paper; and I'll be as brief in it as possible.

The late Glorious Monarch, King *William*, all the Nation allows, and honour his Memory for it, was the Mighty Founder of the Present Settlement of the Nation; our Deliverance from Tyranny, Ecclesiastick as well as Civil; the Restoring our Constitution, the bringing those hated Things, call'd the Peoples Liberty and Property, into a State of Safety; the securing a Protestant Succession, and above all, the Establishment of Religion, and the Universal Rights of Mankind, viz. Toleration in Orthodox Professions and Principles, are owing to God's Blessing, and his most Admir'd and inimitable Conduct.

He that Speaks of this Prince without some Extasie, must, in my Opinion, lessen his Value for *English* Liberty, show his want of a due Concern for his Native Country,

try, and discover that he is less affected with our Security, from the inevitable Destruction, attending us by Popery and Precipitant Counsels, than is consistient, either with a Man of Sence, or a Man of English Extraktion. There can be no just Reflection upon the former Dangers he rescued this Nation from, without due Excursions in Honour of his Memory ; and would Men justly measure things by their contraries, it would appear in this, that you never find the other Gentlemen Reflecting with Regret upon the late Times, but they sincerely Curse his Name. Now, as the Apostles told the Rulers in Primitive Time, *That by the way that they call'd Heresie, to Worship'd they we God of their Fathers.* So, I say, we Glory in the Memory of this Prince, that by the Method these Gentlemen call Usurpation and Invasion, as the Instrument God thought fit to honour by restoring Peace, Liberty, Religion, and at last Plenty to these Nations.

This great Prince spent his Strength, his Time, his Treasure, and I may say his Blood to serve and defend us ; how we Treated him, what Usage he met with here, and from who ; I purposely cover with a Mantle of Tenderness, in Compassion to the Times, and Respect to some that are since better Inform'd ; and 'tis my Maxim, *Errors Reform'd, ought not to be remembred* ; 'tis enough that all honest Men confess the Honesty, as well as Bravery, of this Greatest of Men.

While I make this Digression, I could Illustrate it by Instance of its contrary, where the Gentlemen, who call themselves of the High-Church, give vent to their Spleen and Ill Nature, by Reproaching the Memory of this Prince ; and I cannot refrain giving an Instance of this in a High Gentleman, one of the Knights of the Black Rose, who coming into a House where Pictures were to be Sold, saw a Picture of King William, that was well Painted, and commending the Picture, was ask'd if he wou'd Buy it — — — No, says he, 'tis a good Piece, and very well done, and for that Reason I am Pleas'd with it ; I like the Picture, but I won't Buy it, FOR I HATE THE FELLOW.

Where now is the Respect due to Crown'd Heads, a thing so often thrown in the Teeth of some Writers of this Age, when they talk of Tyrants and Monsters in the World ? but the use I make of it is this, That to me this is a Publick and most plain Confession, of the true Merit of this Immortal Prince, since no Man can desire a greater Testimony than that of the Enemy

But to return to the Story ; This Great Prince left the Nation just entring upon a cruel, a Desperate, and a chargeable War ; we had scarce Breath'd o r selves, after the late long and Bloody Contention.

The late War was carry'd on for twelve Years, with the whole unbroken Power of France ; that Monarch was enrich'd with long Peace, prodigious Amassments of Treasure, Innumerable Forces, flush'd with vall Successes, and a long Series of Victory and unaccountable Conquests, exact in Discipline, Beaten to Service, and compleat in Experience.

Who ever looks back on the Reign of King William, and all the Herculean Labours of his Reign, his Struggling Abroad with the United and highly improv'd Forces of France ; his Struggling at Home with the Fury of opposite Frac-tions, the Envy and Animosities of Parties, and the frequent prevailing Conduct of this or that Party, which always oblig'd him to quit one side after another.

If again they will consider the backwardness in Parliamentary Aids, and how late their Supplies, how lame their Contrivances ; how, Cheated by Projectors, the Publick Groan'd under innumerable Deficiencies of Funds, and Disappointments of all sorts.

If we consider the late timing Parliamentary Assistance ; how often he fought without Armies, and the Armies without Pay ; how honest Men serv'd a starving Cause, and Knaves enrich'd themselves with the plunder of the Crown ; add to this the full stop of the Coin, such a shock, as in time of Peace, we ought to have apprehended ; and yet was carried on to a perfection to be admir'd by all Men, at a time of War, Want, and Scarcity.

If every one of these things had their due weight, and we were to make right judgment of things, we should all readily agree, King William was the Greatest Man in his Age, and the Ministry under him, were equally valuable in their proportion, as they were instrumental to assist him at all times to defend the Nation against the Implacable Enemies of our Religion and Civil Right.

When this Prince came to the end of his Troubles, and obtain'd from Heaven a *Quietus*, a Dismiss from the Hurries and Danger of this World, the present Reign began with a New Turn to Affairs.

And not to look too severely into the mistakes of some Gentlemen who got into the Administration, and who run themselves out of Breath, till *Phaeton* like, they forc'd our *English Jupiter* to overturn them, to save the World from being set on Fire, by their headstrong Fury, and Impolitick Precipitation; I desire to give them in a very short Abridgment, and go on to the present State of things agreeable to the Title of this Paper, A Review of the State of the Nation.

When Her Majesty came first to the Crown, the Administration of Affairs was Committed to a new Set of Men, *as to the Interest of Parties I mean*, though some of them the same Persons left in the Ministry. Her Majesty, like a Wise Princess, declar'd her self in terms as explicit as possible, her resolution of Governing the Kingdom with a steady and unbyast Justice, but with a strict regard to all Parties as to Property, and as to Liberty, both Civil and Ecclesiastick.

'Tis true, Her Majesty express'd in Her first Speech, a True Zeal and Affection for the Church of *England*, and in the most Passionate and Obliging Terms in the World, told them, that they should be the Men of her Favour; that she would skreen the Dissenters, and take them into her Protection, they behaving themselves Dutifully and Peaceably to the Government; but that the most Zealous Members of the Church of *England*, should be most Trusted,

Honoured, and Employed by Her Majesty, and the like.

I confess it is very surprizing, and would move any Man to an unusual Degree, to reflect what use some Gentlemen made of Words so honestly design'd, so Candidly spoken, and so directly purs'd; and on their mistake, I must be allow'd to ground a great many of the unhappy methods some Gentlemen took to raise new Divisions, and widen old Breaches in the Nation; whose success in the wicked endeavour, brought us to the brink of an Unseen Snare, and left this Nation in a most dangerous Crisis; which had it not been taken in time, would have endanger'd the whole Government, and have bid fair for a Re-Revolution into Popish and *French Slavery*; a thing, I think too easy to be demonstrated; and the Sequel of these Sheets will perhaps make it plain.

I will not here Debate, whether it was a mere Accident, and that Her Majesty's well meant Expressions gave ground to the Preposterous Conjecture, as if Her Majesty design'd from thence, they should infer, the *Dissenters* were given up to them a mere Sacrifice to the Fury of the Party, and that Persecution was imply'd in the very Words; I think the Absurdity of the thing speaks it plainly, that it was only an old Design reviv'd, and the Mistake lay in thinking, that the Queen had given them a handle, and acquainted them, that now was the time to carry it on.

And yet even in this, they committed one of the greatest Absurdities imaginable, in that they must imagine Her Majesty what I have more Manners than to mention, when at the same time the *Dissenters* had the Royal Promise for Protection, which they resolv'd not to Forfeit, by any Undutiful Behaviour whatsoever.

I forbear in this general Account of things, to Recount and Innumerate, all the Foolish Excursions of the Party upon the *Dissenters*, let them Dye with the rest of the Vain and most Ridiculous Attempts of that Day, upon the Queen and the Government, to bring them to a Broil with the *Dissenters*.

The

The loud Clamours, the Railings, the Pamphlets, the Sermons, and all the Innumerable Crowd of Party-Invectives, to render the *Dissenters* Obnoxious to the Queen, and Odious to the People; let them Dye and be forgotten with their Authors, and the weaknes of this Attempt, appear in the subsequent Disasters that attended it.

When first these Gentlemen threw off the Mask, and declar'd themselves; when *P——n* Zeal and *Oxonian* Fury began the Attack, and the World was fairly Appriz'd of what they would be at, they found the first Opposition among themselves — They found that, generally speaking all over, *England*, the Soberest, Gravest, Wildest, and most pious of the sincere Members of the Church of *England*, would not come into the War, would not join in the *Crusado*, nor fall in with the Project.

Persecution and Plundering of Innocent and Quiet People were never agreeable to their Principles, it was no Church of *England* Doctrine; it was a Stranger, a New Invader of the Nation, and these hung back and were unwilling to come in.

And here I presume to place the True Original of the fatal distinction among us, between High-Church and Low-Church, and from hence I shall endeavour to go on with my Essay, *at the State of the NATION.*

WHIER EAS, many Persons, that have in less than Half an Hour, been perfectly Eased, and totally free'd, from the most intollerable Torturing Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, by only Bathing with the most Famous Chymical Secret, called *Anti-Arthritis*, or Gout Antidote; complain that so small a Quantity of it being sold for 3 s. 6 d. they can't conveniently buy so often as the Extremity of their Pain, or continuance of the Fit of the Gout, &c. may require. This is therefore to give Notice, that the Author of this Medi-

cine, (for the publick Good) has now order'd it to be sold in Bottles, that contain near as much more as the former did, and enough to perfect the cure for the same Price, viz. 3 s. 6 d. each, with Directions. NOTE, it infallibly prevents the Gout, returning into the Stomach. Sold only at Mr. Alcraft's a Toy-Shop at the Bluecoat-Boy against the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mr. Brook's at the Ship near the May-Pole in the Strand.

Just Publish'd

Synopsi Palmariorum Mathematicos: Or, a New Introduction to the Mathematics, containing the Principles of Arithmetic and Geometry Demonstrated, in a short and Easier Method; with their Application to the most Useful Parts thereof: As, Resolving of Equations, Infinite Series, making the Logarithms Interest, Simple and Compound; the chief Properties of the Conic Sections; Mensuration of Surfaces and Solids; the Fundamental Precepts of Perspective; Trigonometry; the Laws of Motion apply'd to Mechanic Powers, Gunnery, &c. Designed for the Benefit, and adapted to the Capacities of Beginners. By William Jones. Printed for Jeffery Wale, at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1706.

Just Publish'd,

THE Scepticism and Fundamental Errors Establish'd in Mr. Samuel Clark's Sermons Preach'd at St. Paul's, more fully Discover'd. Being a Defence of the Remarks upon Mr C's first Volume of Sermons; wherein, besides the Contents of the said Remarks, and the Nature and Use of the Demonstrations they contain, are more fully made to appear; most of its Particulars are prov'd in a Regular Geometrical Method, and the rest evidently made out, &c. Printed for John Nutt, near Stationers Hall, 1705.

Lately publish'd

A Geographical and Historical Account of the Principality of *Catalonia*, and Earl-dom of *Barcelona*. Containing the Description of that Country and City, and of all other Places of Note, and its Principal Rivers, the Succession of its Princes, and all Notable Revolutions from the first Ages, to this present time. London, Printed, and sold by John Nutt, near Stationers-Hall.

